MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 DECEMBER 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Navy and Air Force destroyed three naval targets in the Khowr-e Musa area, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced. The Iraqis had attacked seven Iranian ships heading toward the port of Bandar-e Khomeyni, the communique said. Meanwhile, Tehran radio reported that the Iranian Government has decided that Iran's National Insurance Company will insure all vessels that frequent Iranian ports against possible war damage.

Iran

The nation began voting for the Council of Experts with "overwhelming enthusiasm and fervor," Tehran radio claimed. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni himself went to vote near his Jamaran residence "with firm and confident steps," the radio said.

Israel

Relations With Lebanon, U.S. -- Amin al-Jumayyil can be Lebanon's president if he signs a peace agreement with Israel, but otherwise he will be president of his palace only, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told Jewish leaders in New York in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Claiming that the United States is impeding and restricting the achievement of a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon, Sharon criticized some elements in the U.S. Administration for trying to revive the PLO with "artificial respiration" and for attempting to persuade Egypt and Jordan that the PLO is vital for achieving a solution to the Middle East crisis.

A senior Israeli official cited by DAVAR indicated that Israel is maintaining its demand that Lebanese-Israeli talks be held in Jerusalem because it objects to U.S. concern for Saudi feelings over the issue. The "crisis of credibility" in Israel-U.S. relations is caused not by Israel's position but by "the process of Bechtelization" which U.S. foreign policy is currently undergoing, the official contended. However, Jerusalem radio reported that Israeli Foreign Ministry officials have expressed reservations about Israeli criticisms of U.S. officials, particularly Secretary of State George Shultz. Asserting that such attacks originate in Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office, the officials said Israel should avoid a crisis in relations with the United States.

Begin's Future, Letter to Commission -- Prime Minister Begin told the JEWISH CHRONICLE's foreign editor that he will continue in office, despite his wife's death, because "it is my duty toward my people," THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Meanwhile, ITIM published the text of Begin's letter to the commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre; the prime minister announced that he will not use his right to interrogate witnesses and present evidence.

New Party -- Former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has revealed that he intends to establish a new party to run in the next Knesset elections, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

Factional clashes continued in Tripoli and four Syrians were killed when their vehicle was ambushed outside the city, according to Beirut radio reports. Jerusalem radio's Arabic service said Palestinian fighters from Fatah staged the ambush in response to Syrian harassment of Fatah in northern Lebanon. Inside the city most establishments went on strike on 10 December to protest the recurring violence, Beirut radio noted.

The radio also reported further clashes between Christians and Druze in the Ash-Shuf hills. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio warned that an "unhealthy substance" has been deposited in the waters supplying the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh areas.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting in the YAR of the PLO's Supreme Military Council, San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported. A number of important military issues were discussed. According to San'a' radio, the YAR capital will shortly host a PLO meeting aimed at bolstering Palestinian unity.

Arab Diplomacy, Inter-Arab Affairs

Morocco Talks -- Moroccan King Hassan II received British emissary Lord Chalfont, who conveyed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's desire to find a solution to the dispute over the Arab seven-member committee's visit to London, Rabat radio reported. Earlier, King Hassan met with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Riyadh radio noted.

Syrian View on Fes Plan -- Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stated that attempts to reconcile or blend the Fes summit resolutions with President Ronald Reagan's peace plan would be tantamount to abandoning the Fes proposals and would be a step backward, the London-based daily ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported. The Fes resolutions are the "red line" from which there must be no retreat and which must not be abandoned, Khaddam asserted.

Arab-Egyptian Relations -- Iraqi President Saddam Husayn announced in a message to the Arab Strategic Studies Center that Iraq looks forward to the restoration of Egypt's "natural influential role" in the pan-Arab movement. The message, which was broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, affirmed that Iraq is eager to redouble its efforts to remove obstacles hampering attainment of this goal.

Meanwhile, after returning to Cairo from Jordan, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali submitted a report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the Egyptian delegation's discussions with Lebanese leaders, Cairo radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

A Riyadh radio commentary stated that while the Kingdom does not consider itself obliged "to establish any relations," the possibility of studying "any plan for future cooperation with any country" will remain open.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FINANCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOSCOW TALKS

LD100524 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] Finance Minister Abdol Wakil today returned to Kabul from Moscow. The finance minister had gone to Moscow at the invitation of the USSR minister of finance for a friendly and official visit and for talks about the extension of financial and economic cooperation between the DRA and USSR.

GROUP REPORTS ON SOVIET USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

NC091711 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] Paris, Dec 9 (AFP) -- An investigating team returning from Afghanistan said today it appeared as though Soviet forces had used chemical weapons there, but warned it was difficult to obtain sure proof.

Sent by the Peoples Permanent Tribunal, a continuation of the Russell Tribunal on Vietnam and South America, the investigators said signs "tended" to confirm the use of chemical warfare, but emphasized the difficulty in obtaining evidence.

The tribunal is scheduled to hold its second session here from December 16 to 20. During its first session in Stockholm in May of 1981, the tribunal qualified Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as an aggression.

During a press conference today, members of the tribunal's investigating team spoke of mass evacuation of Afghan villages following bombing by Soviet aircraft.

They also cited eyewitness accounts of an incident last September in which a hundred villagers were said to have been burned alive in an irrigation ditch by Soviet soldiers. The witnesses, interviewed by the commission during a secret visit to Afghanistan from November 26 to December 4, said the 105 civilians had been discovered hiding in the underground irrigation canal near Padkhwab-e-Shana village, 60 kms (36 miles) south of Kabul, by Soviet soldiers on September 13. The Russians reportedly dammed up one end of the canal, causing the water to rise, then injected an inflammable substance. An enormous explosion ensued, which burned everyone inside to death, the commission reported. Commission members Michael Barry, Ricardo Flaile and Michel Baret visited clandestinely the site of the reported massacre on the night of December 3 and found the canal wall blackened, apparently by an inflammable substance.

(In Peshawar, Pakistan, resistance sources said a young rebel leader was killed Tuesday during an attack on a government outpost in the eastern province of Nangarhar.)

KARMAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION ANNIVERSARY

LD101050 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0432 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 9, BAKHTAR -- Following is a message by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, on the occasion of marking 34th anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights:

At this time when the countries of the world celebrate the 34th anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights, I have the pleasure to present on behalf of the Central Committee of the PDPA, the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and on my own, our best and sincere felicitations and wishes to all the people of Afghanistan especially to workers, peasants and other working people whose human-rights were trampled upon for years on end by the despotic past regimes for satisfying their inhuman whims and caprices.

The victory of Sawr Revolution which is a turning point in the prideful history of our dear revolutionary Afghanistan declared for the first time the respect for the real rights for the people of the country and its new and evolutionary phase further paved the grounds for the granting in practice the human rights and the protection of all the accepted and legal freedom and provided their confirmation in the fundamental principles of the DRA.

For the first time in history of the DRA, real equality between brotherly nationalities and tribes residing in Afghanistan and equality of rights between men and women were declared, ensured and were put into effect. Today, all noble sons of all the nationalities residing in our united country, Afghanistan, participate in the administration and execution of party and state affairs of the country.

Similarly, women side by side with men are taking part in the construction of a blossoming Afghanistan and hold important party and state posts.

The DRA for the first time in the history of the country approved the most important treaties such as the international convenant on the civil and political rights, the international convenant on the economic, social and cultural rights and proposes to join in the signatories to these convenants. Afghanistan is also considering to ratify other important convenants such as the convention on the removal and eradication of crimes of apartheid, and a number of other conventions are under consideration.

It should be said with utmost regret that despite [words indistinct] 34 years since the adoption of universal declaration of human rights the broad masses of many regions, and the nations of the world are still languishing under the oppression and tyranny of the imperialist and racist countries. Millions of workers and peasants and artisans are being ruthlessly exploited by those who wield power and wealth in countries ruled by imperialist and reactionary regimes.

During the current year, thousands of militant Palestinians and the defenceless men, women and children of Lebanon were the victims of the savage and inhuman attacks by Zionists and their reactionary accomplices. The tragic memory of the massacre at Sabra and Shatila camps will permanently keep in sorrow the conscience of the progressive humanity.

The militant peoples of Namibia are still living under the oppression and tyranny of the racist regime of Pretoria and numerous militants such as Nelson Mandela have been inhumanly tortured behind the bars of the fascist regime of South Africa.

The heroic fighters of the National Liberation Front of Farabundo Marti and other fighters of the cause of freedom and human rights in the countries of Latin America and Caribbean region are under inhuman oppression and torture and are calling for the support of the justful and right world.

While declaring our deep respect to the universal declaration of the human rights and other convenants and declarations and while taking practical all-sided and firm steps towards their strict implementation, we are hopeful that practical measures will be taken in all the countries of the world for paying respect to the high position of man, especially of the working man so that all individuals of our planet may be able to live in peace and tranquillity enjoying full human rights.

Similarly, we declare once again our support for the effective and constructive efforts of the United Nations, the Commission on Human Rights, the progressive and peaceful forces for the creation of a world society in which the human rights would be ensured.

BORDER TRIBES AFFIRM LOYALTY TO REVOLUTION

LD081846 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] In Jalalabad's Espeenghar Hotel yesterday, Sulayman Laeq, minister of the high jirgah of the nationalities and tribes, met with representatives of the Momand border tribes. During the meeting, the minister discussed the objectives of Pakistan's reactionary circles and militarists who, under U.S. patronage, have unleashed an undeclared war against our people and against the April Revolution. He recalled the unity and solidarity of the Pashtun tribes who have an historical reputation for defending and safeguarding the homeland's independence. He expressed satisfaction with the unity of views and the cohesion of the Momand tribes in defense of the April Revolution.

At this meeting, which took place in a sincere and friendly atmosphere, Malik Mohammad Yusof, Malik Halik Khan, Malik Serbaz, Malik Nowroz and Mohammad Gol, on behalf of the Momand tribes, assured Sulayman Laeq that they are ready, together with their toiling brothers, to defend the April Revolution and to safeguard the land of free and independent Afghanistan.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Jalalabad City that at this meeting representatives of the Momand tribes viewed the policy of Pakistan's militarist regime as oppressive and anti-Islamic and they resolutely condemned it.

According to another report from Jalalabad, Sulayman Laeq yesterday attended a memorial ceremony held by the Afride, Shenwar and Lowargui tribes in honor of those martyred by the Pakistani militarists in the Landikotal incident. He offered condolences from the party and Government of the DRA.

DEFECTOR COMMENTS ON AIR FORCE, SOVIET ADVISERS

BK070220 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] The director of air defense operations of the Air Force headquarters at Khwaja Rawash, near Kabul, Brigadier Mohammad Sarwar Sinwari, who recently took shelter in Pakistan, said in an interview that the Karmal administration has been left with no power while all authority lies with the Soviet advisers. He said the situation has reached the point now that armed forces promotions also are being given on the recommendations of these advisers.

Referring to the Air Force, he said there are very few Afghan pilots and most of the air attacks against the mujahidin are carried out by foreign pilots.

PRC CRITICISMS OVER ARUNACHAL PRADESH REJECTED

BK101249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] The government has rejected the criticism implied in the official Chinese news agency's item relating to the inclusion of a dance from Arunachal Pradesh at the concluding ceremony of the ASIAD.

A spokesman of the External Affiars Ministry said in New Delhi today that the statement of the Chinese news agency runs counter to the spirit guiding the efforts to improve relations between the two countries. The government regrets both the contents and the tone of this unwarranted attack and rejects the news agency's commentary and its implication. The spokeman pointed out that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the India.

GANDHI ADDRESSES MILITARY ACADEMY 10 DECEMBER

BK100911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] The prime minister has again said that India believes in avoiding war and resolving differences through negotiations. But, she said, this does not imply slackness in preparedness. Mrs Gandhi was speaking in Dehra Dun today at the golden jubilee parade to mark the completion of 50 years of the Indian Military Academy.

Mrs Gandhi said keeping pace with time is essential for progress in any sphere, more so with regard to defense. She said rapid induction of science and technology and overall changes in society require increased awareness by the officers cadre in the management of human and material resources.

Mrs Gandhi said the setting up of the academy was a landmark in the history of the country and right from its inception the institute has held fine traditions and a record of exemplary services. Since independence our forces are manned and led entirely by our own people and they have earned respect for their conduct both in war and in peace.

The prime minister commended the role of the Army in the Asian games and said our Armed Forces have always come forward in times of need. They have demonstrated their dedication in removing the sufferings of the people during national calamities. They also set an example of a mini-India and play the role of national integration.

Earlier, Mrs Gandhi was received by Chief of the Army Staff General Krishna Rao and Commandant of the Academy Lt General Kamath. About 500 cadets took part in the parade which was commanded by Academy's Under Officer P.N. Rao.

Among those who witnessed the parade were the defense minister, communications minister, deputy defense minister and the governor of Uttar Pradesh. Later, the prime minister released a postal stamp to commemorate the occasion.

AKALI LEADER DECLINES TALKS WITH HOME MINISTER

BK091604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal has turned down the invitation of Home Minister P.C. Sethi for resuming negotiations on the Akali demands. In a reply to Sethi's letter of yesterday, he has expressed the view that no useful purpose will be served by the negotiations.

MAJLIS, COUNCIL OF EXPERTS ELECTIONS BEGIN

GF100622 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] The elections for the Council of Experts and the interim Islamic Majlis commenced all over the country an hour ago with overwhelming enthusiasm and fervor of the risen nation of Iran.

The martyr-nurturing Muslim nation of Iran today once again will prove, with extensive participation in the elections for the Council of Experts for the defense of Islam and the Islamic revolution -- which is the compensation for the blood of the numerous red-shrouded martyrs from the (?dawn of) Islam until now -- that it remains relentless and unflinching.

The Muslim nation of Iran will obey the prophet-like injunctions of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who has declared participation in the elections a religious obligation and a step to consolidate the leadership in Iran, by visiting 22,000 [as heard] constituencies all over the country. This will be a gigantic stride toward stabilizing and strengthening the munificent Islamic revolution and its gains.

Khomeyni Votes

GF100550 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0526 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] In the first hours of polling for the Council of Experts this morning, despite the chilly winter air, the residence of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was the scene of unsurpassed activity.

At about 0805, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the hope of the world's oppressed, with firm and confident steps and with his characteristic smile which exuded hope and faith in the consolidation of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran, came out of his house at Jamaran. He was accompanied by Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, his noble son, and went to the polling booth. After the completion of the necessary legal formalities, he cast his secret ballots for the Council of Experts, the appointment of the leadership council and the interim majlis.

According to the representative of the Central News Unit, these ceremonies took place amidst cheers and shouts of God is great, and in the presence of (?returning officers) of the distfict and brother members of the office in Jamaran.

CANDIDATES TOLD NOT TO SEND SUPERVISORS TO POLLS

LD101122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Statement issued by the Iranian National Elections Headquarters on 10 December]

[Text] In His exalted name. Hereby all governors, district governors, registration and voting stations throughout the country are informed of the following: The sending of a representative directly by the candidates with a letter of introduction or a supervision card to supervise the voting procedure has not been provided for by the election laws and regulations.

If the candidates want to send certain individuals to supervise the voting procedure, they should act solely through the supervisory commission of the Council of Guardians. Therefore, the registration stations and polling booths are not allowed to admit representatives or supervisors directly chosen and sent by the candidates.

[Signed] National Elections Headquarter

MONTAZERI MEETS WITH JOINT STAFF OFFICIALS

LD091426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the chairman of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by officials of the various bureaus of the Joint Staff, yesterday met with His Great Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. He reported on the situation at the fronts and on recent developments.

The Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, while praising them and praying for the victory of the fighters of Islam on all fronts, then said the sensitive nature and importance of the elections to the Council of Experts can be seen in the stands adopted by the enemies of Islam abroad and their hostile propaganda through the Zionist loudspeakers. They do not want these elections to be held with the same grandeur and glory as previous elections. They are frightened of the people's commitment and their timely decisions. However, our aware and alert people will turn their hope into despair through their mass participation in the election of experts.

Citing His Holiness 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him, about the importance of the Armed Forces and the need for strengthening them and paying more attention to them, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said that after the success of the revolution alien hands and dependent groups tried to destroy the armed forces from a quantitative point of view and to weaken them from a qualitative point of view and to prevent the young Islamic Republic from having a powerful and well-equipped army. However, the awareness and the timely decision of the great leader of the revolution neutralized this conspiracy. His Great Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized that the commanders and army chiefs should increase their contacts with the NCO's and soldiers and should be better informed of internal developments in the Armed Forces through their constant supervision. They should be closely informed of the difficulties, problems and shortages of the lower ranks and should take revolutionary steps.

Finally, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri offered guidelines on the need for great coordination in allocating the facilities to various fronts and preventing the disorderly and disproportionate distribution of those facilities.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,147

LD091726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,147 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Our dear compatriots hereby are informed of the sacrifices rendered by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during yesterday's battles in the imposed war.

On the Marivan Front, the Islamic combatants' effective fire inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces in the (Hargineh) region, destroying enemy positions and killing or injuring several enemy personnel.

On the Qasr-e-Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts, the Islamic combatants halted the Saddamist forces' fire, destroyed five enemy foxholes and bunkers, and killed several Iraqi personnel.

On the Sumar front, army combatants, using artillery fire against enemy positions, set on fire a number of Iraqi forces' vehicles and inflicted extensive damages on them. Our forces also destroyed four Iraqi light and heavy weapon bunkers.

Exchanges of fire continued on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts in the last 24 hours and our forces returned enemy fire on positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, destroying a number of Saddamist forces' weapon positions and observation posts and killing several Iraqis.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr yesterday were still under the Saddamist mercenaries' long-range artillery fire, which resulted in losses and casualties.

Exchanges of fire continued on other southern fronts and the Islamic combatants, while defending and consolidating their positons, have the enemy's positions and units under their constant artillery and other heavy weapons fire. While they controlled the Saddamist forces' moves and activities, they inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy through their retaliatory actions.

The Saddamist forces' air violations yesterday were repulsed by the selfless personnel of the Air Force and the fire of the air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the invading enemy aircraft were driven away.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI AMMUNITION DUMP, EQUIPMENT DESTROYED

LD091722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] According to IRNA, an enemy ammunition dump across the Arvand Rud was destroyed by the fire of the Islam combatants. Flames could be seen for hours.

As a result of the Islamic combatants' artillery fire, one vehicle, one 106-mm field gun, one machinegun position and seven Saddamist bunkers across the Arvand Rud, inside Iraqi territory, were destroyed and a number of Saddamist forces were killed.

COMPANY TO INSURE VESSELS AGAINST WAR DAMAGE

LD091830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the government has decreed that the Iranian National Insurance Company is to insure all vessels which frequent Iranian ports on a premium of 1 percent.

Therefore, all vessels leased by the Shipping Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as other vessels frequenting Iranian ports will be insured by the Iranian National Insurance Company against possible war damage.

The government's decree stressed that the Iranian National Insurance Company will have the government's complete support in implementing the task.

LEADERS CONFER WITH LIBYAN DELEGATION 9 DEC

President Khamene'i

LD091318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, and 'Abd ar-Rahman Shalqham, secretary of the People's Committee for Propaganda of Libya, were received by and conferred with President Khamene'i this morning.

During this meeting -- also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, Presidential Adviser Mir Sali, the Iranian ambassador to Libya, the Libyan ambassador to Iran and a number of officials from both countries -- the Libyan foreign minister expressed support for Iran's initiatives for ousting the regime occupying Jerusalem for international assemblies. He stressed the dependence of the shaky regime of Iraq on U.S. imperialism. He said: Every defeat inflicted on the Ba'thist regime of Iraq is, in fact, inflicted on America. The defeat of Saddam's regime would be the best present that could be given in place of the blood of the martyrs who have given their lives in this confrontation.

Referring to the soulless bodies [as heard] of the reactionary governments in the region, the president then said: These are systems that are not built on the will of their people. He added: Today, we feel stronger than ever in face of the shaky regime of Iraq. God willing, final victory will be ours.

On now to neutralize U.S. imperialist plots, Khamene'i said: With their resistance to the plots and underhanded actions of America, Muslim nations should show that it is possible to fight them.

Prime Minister Musavi

LD100104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Excerpts] According to a report by the Central News Unit, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, and 'Abd ar-Rahman Shalqham, secretary of the People's Committee for Revolutionary Propaganda of Libya, together with Libya's ambassador to Iran last night met and conferred with Prime Minister Musavi.

At this meeting, which also was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati and by our country's ambassador to Libya, Mr Musavi first praised Libya's clear stand in the face of the regimes attached to imperialism. He mentioned the role of the steadfastness front under the pressure and of the reactionary rulers who are threatening the Arabs' Islamic honor. The prime minister said he appreciated Libya's role at the African summit and its willingness to confront the conspiracies of the dependent African leaders. 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi also expressed his thanks for the active stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of the conspiracies confronting Islamic countries. He condemned America's maneuvers: These moves are surely impossible without the support and cooperation of the region's reactionary rulers. In conclusion, he called for strengthening and expanding fraternal relations between the two countries.

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES 4 DEC

LD050231 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec 4, IRNA -- Nicaraguan foreign trade minister, Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, arrived here this morning heading a delegation from his country. He was welcomed at the airport by Iranian deputy foreign minister in charge of international and economic relations, Kazempur-Ardabili.

Cuenca said upon his arrival that the aim of his trip was to expand relations between the two brother countries. "The Nicaraguan revolution is being threatened and pressured by the U.S. and we have come to Iran to tell our brothers that we will continue our fight against our common enemy, the U.S., until final victory and the establishment of a new Nicaragua," he said. He also hoped that his talks with Iranian officials would bear positive results.

The Nicaraguan delegation is scheduled to hold meetings with Iranian ministers of foreign affairs, oil, and economics and finance and will follow up talks between the two countries left after the visit of an Iranian delegation from Nicaragua last May centered at meeting the needs of two countries. [sentence as received]

Meeting With Velayati

LD051920 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Text] The visiting Nicaraguan trade minister, who is touring Iran at the head a delegation to expand bilateral economic cooperation, met and conferred this afternoon with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

According to the Central News Unit, the meeting stressed the need for economic and political cooperation between the two countries and expansion of bilateral ties on a mutually beneficial basis.

The two sides also discussed and exchanged views on U.S. imperialist conspiracies in Latin America and the Middle East, against the Nicaraguan revolution and the Iranian Islamic revolution.

According to this report, cooperation and coordination on issues to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau, to be held in Nicaragua next month, using the two countries' economic and commercial influence and creating necessary fields for expansion of bilateral trade, were among other topics discussed at the meeting.

Talks With Prime Minister

LD071948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] The Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade, who is visiting Iran at the head of a delegation, this evening met and conferred with Prime Minister Hir-Hoseyn Musavi. According to the Central News Unit, the under secretary for economic and international affairs of the Foreign Ministry and the deputy minister of commerce, were present at this meeting.

Referring to the conspiracies of U.S. imperialism in Latin America and the Persian Gulf, the prime minister explained the military aggressions, incidents of terrorism and the economic sanctions against our country by the United States. The prime minister said: During the past 4 years, our nation has concentrated all its efforts to safeguard the independence of the country, which is one of the gains of the Islamic revolution.

Our nation is determined to stand up against U.S. pressures such as the military aggression in Tabas, the imposed war -- which was started at the behest of the United States -- and the recent U.S. maneuvers in the Persian Gulf region, in which the agents of the United States in this part of the world are participating. Our nation is getting stronger every day and despite all difficulties, it is determined to move in the direction of self-sufficiency based on its own resources.

The Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade, during this meeting, praised the Islamic revolution of the Iranian nation and, after mentioning the conspiracies of the United States and its agents in Latin America, said that his trip to Iran is a great experience. He expressed his desire for the expansion of economic ties between the two countries and the hope that the imposed war will end in favor of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the Central News Unit, the Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade also met and conferred with our country's deputy minister of commerce at the ministry building this afternoon. During this meeting, they discussed the expansion of trade relations between the two countries and talked about purchase of sugar, coffee, cotton, wool and timber from Nicaragua.

9 December Departure

LD100422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] The Nicaraguan foreign trade minister, who had come to our country at the head of a delegation, left Tehran for home this morning after a 5-day visit.

Before leaving Tehran, he was interviewed by IRNA about the outcome of his trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to his meetings with the officials of our country and the agreements between the two countries on expansion of trade relations, the Nicaraguan foreign trade minister said: Our trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran was a very useful experience. We witnessed the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for reconstruction and formation of a modern Iran.

Our country's deputy commerce minister discussing the results of the delegation's visit said: In view of our foreign trade policy, which is based on having commercial relations with the Third World and the nonaligned countries, the Ministry of Commerce is trying to establish trade relations with countries like Nicaragua. He added: During the visit of this delegation in Tehran, an agreement was reached between the two countries on the purchase of sugar. There were also talks on the purchase of coffee, timber, spices, sesame and meat. Because of the short stay of this delegation in Tehran, a delegation from our Commerce Ministry will go to Nicaragua to closely investigate that country's export possibilities. The deputy commerce minister also said: It also was agreed to dispatch a delegation to Nicaragua to study the purchase of meat. This delegation, while observing the Islamic slaughter of animals in that country, will make up its mind about importing meat from Nicaragua.

VELAYATI WARNS NICARAGUAN COUNTERPART AGAINST U.S.

LD051822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman -- date not given]

[Text] In the name of God. Your Excellency Mr Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, foreign affairs minister of Nicaragua: As you already know, U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who is continuing his tour of several Latin American countries, aimed at preparing fresh conspiracies for the suppression of the Central American peoples' liberation campaigns, is currently touring that region. [as heard]

In view of the great satan's policy of aggression and hegemony, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has no doubt that the aim behind Reagan's tour of Central America is to intensify pressure on and threats against the struggling people and Government of Nicaragua and to suppress the liberation movements and struggles of the oppressed people of that region. U.S. imperialism's devious tactics in proposing deceitful economic projects and offering support for the lacky and unpopular regimes in the countries of that region are a design for the realization of that statanic aim.

While condemning the ruling American circles' devious conspiracies and reiterating the support of the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggles of the Nicaraguan Government and people in their campaign against the United States and its mercenary agents in that region, and also supporting the liberation movements in that region. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is sure that those seeking liberation in those countries will destroy U.S. imperialism's bases of hegemony and exploitation through their unity, solidarity and struggle.

Hoping for the victory of the oppressed over the oppressors.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Valayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TEHRAN FRIDAY IMAM ASSAILS U.S. MANEUVERS

GF101058 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0922 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Arabic sermon delivered by acting Tehran Friday Imam Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, during 10 November Friday prayers at Tehran University -- live]

[Excerpt] At a time when Saddam is continuing his aggression, reports are being circulated about fake U.S. peace plans. As we announced earlier on various occasions, we will not quit defending our Islam, our holy places, our revolution, the soil of our homeland, until we have recovered all of our rights and have taught the perfidious enemy a lesson, so that this enemy and its like will not dare to carry out any aggression against the peoples.

Today we face Iraq stringently, and we feel that we have more strength than at any time before to direct heavy blows against the rulers of Baghdad and their lords. The rulers of Iraq will not make use of all this economic, military, political, and press media aid. All these conferences, meetings, and suspicious visits will not change anything about their fate.

We will also not be worried about all these maneuvers undertaken by U.S. imperialism in the Persian Gulf, as well as in Somalia. These maneuvers are going on in two countries whose governments are regarded as agents of the archsatan. Moreover, the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force -- which took place after the victory of the blessed Islamic revolution in Iran -- implies the weakness of the United States, its collapse, and its defeat before the will of the peoples. [The United States] has only one option, which is the implementation of the law of the jungle, assailing the peoples and carrying out such hopeless (?adventures) which were unveiled by the peoples.

We did not fear the United States when it ruled Iran during the days of the buried shah, so we kicked it out. Today we face the United States through its agents in the region -- Zionism and reaction.

We wish we could confront it directly (?as we confront) Satan. [Words indistinct] in God and human beings, for what is better than defeating it and thus achieving victory or martyrdom? The rulers of the region have to be aware of the great danger threatening Islam and the Muslims. It is regretful that some of the Arab politicians say that the United States is the only power that prevents aggression against this sensitive region, that is, the Persian Gulf region. Who carries out aggression against the Gulf region and the Middle East, and provides all the arrogant with weapons and capabilities? The only power is the power of Islam. The audacious combatants counted on the children of the people to be able to expel the aggressors, as we did in Iran against Saddam, the infidel, and his aggressive force.

Peace be upon you.

BUREAU ESTABLISHED TO ATTRACT EMIGRES HOME

LD091506 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Excerpt] According ot a Central News Unit report, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi announced in a statement the goals for the formation of a bureau to attract committed and expert individuals resident abroad.

In a part of this statement that explained the attempts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran since its inception to attract committed and expert forces, it said: To coordinate the activities of the ministries, organizations and Iranian embassies abroad to attract educated elements, to confront false and poisonous propaganda of the counterrevolutionaries and to explain the facts to those graduates who want to pay their debt to the Islamic Republic; also to identify individuals committed to the Islamic Republic and to facilitate their return to the country and their employment and welfare; to achieve self-sufficiency in expert manpower in medical, technical and other specialized fields in view of the short-term and long-term goals of the Islamic Republic, a bureau has been formed to attract committed and expert elements resident abroad. It will be housed in the prime minister's office.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN CITES MKO OPERATIONS

GF090617 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] In the second half of February, four patrol units of the revolution guards were annihilated by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO]. This was reported by the Iran Council of National Resistance in a statement issued in Paris today.

The statement says: During these operations, 11 guards were killed or wounded. The vehicles which were destroyed were worth approximately 1 million tumans each.

In an armed clash on 19 November on the Kazerun-Mamasani road, one of the operational commanders of the guards in Kazerun, named Nasibollah Shokri, was killed. Three days later, in the northern woods on the (?Kelajin)-Mazandarn road, a unit of the oppressive guards of Khomeyni was destroyed. Two guards were killed and another five were wounded in this oepration. All MKO members returned to their bases in the woods safely. On 17 November, more than 2 million rials, the cash in a financial center of Khomeyni in Hamadan, which was all plundered wealth of the people, was confiscated on behalf of the MKO forces.

REPORTS ON AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITIES

50 DRA, Soviet Troops Killed

LD021214 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 2 Dec 82

[Text] Zahedan, Dec. 1 (IRNA) -- At least 50 joint Afghan and Soviet soldiers were killed and six Soviet tanks destroyed by Muslim revolutionaries in the latest round of guerrillas operations against the Soviet-backed government forces in Shanidand airport of Herat Province.

In related report from Charband, a county of Shanidand, another Soviet tank was destroyed along with its crew this week in a battle between Afghan Muslims and Soviet-backed government troops.

Attack on Soviet Column

LD042036 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Mashhad, Dec. 4, IRNA -- Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, in an attack on a column of Soviet occupying forces, set fire to 30 tanks, ammunitions carrying vehicles and personnel carriers. Forty-five soldiers were killed in the attack and 30 light arms and a large quantity of ammunition were seized.

This lightning attack took place last week in the region of Doghi and Chehel Dokhtaran on the Herat expressway situated near the border line of Torghundi.

Nimruz Province Clash

LD081450 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] In a clash with the Soviet occupation forces in a region in Nimruz Province, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries destroyed one tank, two APC's and one jeep of the occupiers, and killed 27 of their troops. During the same clash, 32 Soviet occupation troops also were wounded and large quantities of arms and ammunition fell into the hands of the Afghan Muslims.

Attack Repulsed

LD091510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] After a day-long battle, Muslim Afghan revolutionaries succeeded in repulsing a large-scale attack which was launched against Sanjana near Jalalabad by 300 government and Soviet occupation forces and 40 helicopters, and forced them to retreat. During this retreat, nine of the Soviet occupation forces were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, during a series of attacks against a number of villages, the joint government and Soviet occupation forces in Afghanistan killed 46 old villagers and martyred at least 28 others on suspicion of being Islamic revolutionaries.